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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Felix Varela Center (Special; 1997)

Introduction

The Felix Varela Center (FVC) is a Cuban civil, voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization legally registered at the Ministry of Justice in September 1993.

Aims and purposes of the organization: Mission: The Felix Varela Center is a Cuban NGO which, from an ethics approach, teaches and promotes environmental responsibility for a sustainable development model. **Vision**: The Felix Varela Center has assumed a multidimensional and holistic approach to sustainable development that covers institutional, social, political, economic and environmental dimensions. It is part of a humanistic project whose essential elements are ethics and participation within an action framework for the constant improvement of our nation. The work of the Center is linked to — and is willing to assist and collaborate with — national institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, aimed at promoting sustainable development from a responsible and humanistic ethical perspective, in order to promote joint work for the benefit of our society. **Central work themes**: (a) Ethics and development: ethics for sustainability, ethics for a sustainable economy and environmental education for enterprises and gender; (b) Environmental education for sustainability: Green Map programme, local sustainability indicators; (c) Local and community development: Participation in community development processes and their relationship with sustainability and culture of peace and education for sustainability. **Aim of our institution**: To contribute to the development of an environmentally responsible behaviour that would promote community participation in the search for alternatives for local sustainable development in Cuba. During this quadrennium, FVC continued its work on development, training and awareness-raising for a culture of peace through conflict-solving mediation, conciliation processes for local management and the prevention of violence. The Center sponsors, promotes and conducts workshops on those topics throughout our country. An important achievement of this period is the setting up of a peace culture network, initially made up of 24 governmental and non-governmental institutions with approximately 100 members.

FVC is continuing its work on environmental and sustainable development education by means of its Green Map Project, which during this period consolidated the national mapmaker's network initiated in 2001. FVC continues its membership in international organizations and networks, as follows: the Regional Coordination of Economic and Social Studies (CRIES), which is the coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean for the prevention of armed conflicts; the Permanent Forum of Civil Society of the Greater Caribbean Region, specifically, the Environment and Identity and Culture Commissions; the Caribbean Policy Development Center (FVC is involved in its programmes for the environment, local and community development and the management of solid wastes); the Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations, a network that promotes and supports local initiatives and actions by the people's sectors for their development; the World Social Forum, a movement against neoliberal globalization; the Social and Environmental Responsibility Network of Latin American and Caribbean Enterprises; and The Green Map World Network.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations: FVC attended and supported preparatory meetings convened by the Cuban civil society related to United Nation events. FVC has also participated in other international activities related to the United Nations or to its agencies.

2005: (a) Fifth International Convention on the Environment and Development (Havana, July). FVC was part of the preparatory committee and made a presentation at the round table on civil society and the environment. It also launched the book *Bioética para la Sostenibilidad* published by the FVC publishing house. (b) FVC orally expressed its opinion on several Cuban civil society meetings held to draft the critical contribution to the Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom; towards development, security and human rights for all" at unofficial meetings with the President of the General Assembly (Havana, April-June). (c) Made an oral intervention at the Third Cuban Civil Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexation (Havana, October). (d) Attended a debate at a theatre in Havana City on the General Assembly's resolution on the need to cease the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (November). (e) Organized, jointly with other local institutions, a community meeting to commemorate the World Environment Day (Havana, June). (f) Expressed its opinion at the meeting of Cuban civil society prior to the seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (Havana, October). (g) Expressed its opinion on the amendments to the final declaration of the meeting "Cuban civil society in defence of sovereignty and human rights in Cuba" (Havana, April).

2006: Attended the Fourth Cuban Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexion, organized by the Cuban United Nations Association (Havana, October).

2007: (a) Sixth International Convention on the Environment and Development (Havana, July), FVC participated in the Cuban non-governmental organizations stand, where books were sold and promotional material on the Green Map was handed out. FVC was a member of the organizing committee of the colloquium on "Environment and civil society". (b) Attended and orally expressed its opinion at the Fifth Cuban Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexion, organized by the Cuban United Nations Association (Havana, October). (c) Participated in the regional capacity-building course on conflict analysis and prevention and citizen's diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by CRIES (São Paulo, December).

2008: (a) Participated in the technical training given by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the making of the environmental indicators for Cuba (Havana, May). (b) Attended the Second Cuban Civil Society Forum "Human Rights in Cuba" (Havana, September). (c) Participated in a series of lectures/meetings of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Cuba with Cuban non-governmental organizations with Economic and Social Council consultative status (Havana, March, June, November). (d) Participated at an event commemorating the international day to support torture victims (Havana, June). (e) Participated in a regional capacity-building course on Peace and prevention of conflicts organized by CRIES (San Rafael, Argentina, December).

Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals: Since the call made in the Millennium Declaration (United Nations, September 2000), the Felix Varela Center has reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to Goals 3 and 7.

Goal 3: To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women: The Felix Varela Center began to systematize a gender approach in its work, in order to implement a line of work that would meet the need of our society to improve and continue developing social justice. Since 2007 the Center has been obtaining funding for conducting several workshops and seminars and for publishing literature on gender such as gender and power; gender theory; making of indicators with a gender approach; masculinity and peace culture; links between gender and mass media; gender and violence; and gender and the environment. Women hold decision-making positions in FVC. Seventy-five per cent of the members of the Executive Board and two thirds of the membership of FVC is composed of women. *Entre el decir y el silencio* (*Between Speaking Out and Silence*), a documentary video on gender in Cuban society was filmed by our Center in 2008. It is shown in lectures, conferences and seminars. An essay contest on gender called Melanipa was carried out in December 2008.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: FVC continues strengthening and developing the national Green Map Network that has its own development and training programme. This educational and action programme in favour of the environment is being carried at all provinces of Cuba and is part of the world Green Map network.

Activities in support of global principles: FVC sent messages, through its e-mail bulletin, in commemoration of global principles, the most outstanding of which is the World Environment Day. On that day workshops and community activities take place. The Center continues working with members of the Third Age opening spaces for their participation in the Center's activities and organizing a yearly workshop, "Ethical challenges of the Third Age", as part of bioethics in higher education meetings (2005-2008), of which the Center is a member of the organizing committee. FVC presented a paper at the 2006 and 2007 meetings.

Since 1993, FVC has been organizing the Ibero-American "Elena Gil" ethics contest. This contest grants awards to works that promote a value system based on love, dignity, social justice and solidarity, thus fostering change geared to making society free of misery and discord.

During 2005-2008, FVC publications were presented at the yearly International Book Fairs of Havana. In 2006 they were presented at the International Book Fairs of Bogotá (April-May) and Mexico City (October). In 2008 the Center presented its publications at the Fourth International Book Fair in Caracas (November). A total of four educational videos on conflict mediation and two documentary videos were made by FVC and 23 books were published.

2. Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (Special; 2005)

Introduction, aims and purposes: The Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG) is a research institute on the interface of science, politics and the business world. It improves the knowledge concerning intergenerational justice and sustainability through its practice-orientated research. Young scientists from several disciplines are working for FRFG on interdisciplinary projects. As an advocacy think-tank FRFG also tries to raise awareness of intergenerational justice and sustainability within the political area. To FRFG, intergenerational justice means

that today's youth and future generations must have at least the same opportunities to meet their own needs as the generation governing today. The organization's aim is not only a mere description of society but a change. It aims to provoke, challenge and ultimately stimulate politicians to recognize the rights of future generations and to implement measures to protect them. FRFG promotes this change through awarding an Intergenerational Justice Award to young scientists developing creative solutions for problems of intergenerational justice and sustainability every other year. Furthermore it publishes books and the peer-reviewed *Intergenerational Justice Review* journal to enhance our knowledge of these topics. FRFG takes part in numerous conferences around the world on topics relevant for its work like climate change, children's rights and sustainability and organizes its own conferences biennially. Furthermore FRFG is promoting the implementation of intergenerational justice and sustainability in national constitutions as wells as in conventions and treaties at the international and European levels. The network "Friends of FRFG" ensures the financial base of the foundation and, thus, its independence.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: FRFG was very active in the field of promoting the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. This is especially true for the areas of environmental sustainability, global partnership and children's rights in terms of universal education and child health. The President of the organization, as well as members of the Board, participated in numerous conferences promoting these topics. The most important conferences in terms of United Nations relevance included (a) World Public Forum on the Dialogue of Civilizations (2006) which was morally supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (b) British German Forum of the Wilton Park International Policy Conference (2007) supported by the United Nations Global Compact Office, the United Nations University, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; (c) A conference of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on financing the Millennium Goals in Berlin (2008).

Furthermore the President was part of the jury for the Future Award 2006 of the Institute for Future Studies and Technology Evaluation in Berlin on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Other conferences attended by FRFG staff related to (a) gender equality (Goal 3); 2008; Berlin, 13-14 October 2008; (b) child health (Goal 4); (c) environmental sustainability (Goal 7); (d) global partnership (Goal 8); (e) education for sustainable development (United Nations decade topic).

Sustainability in general and environmental sustainability in special was also promoted by the President and Board members of FRFG in numerous appearances on television and radio talk shows and political discussions. FRFG has also published numerous scientific books and anthologies on topics of sustainability in cooperation with renowned publishers between 2005 and 2008, including books on population policy in the context of social justice between generations (2005) and generational justice as a concept for businesses (2005); a handbook of intergenerational justice (2006); "A right to vote without age limit?" (2008); and

information on the United Nations guidelines for the enhanced coverage of sustainability. An article on the guidelines was published in issue in the *Journal for Generational Justice* (No. 1, 2005) in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Bonn.

In the same issue FRFG published an article by an employee of the German Bayer AG on the cooperation of UNEP and Bayer in the fields of youth and environment. Meanwhile the journal was transformed into the peer-reviewed *Intergenerational Justice Review* which treats United Nations-relevant topics like children's rights, climate change, historical injustice and peace and is furthering research on the implementation and effectiveness of United Nations conventions, guidelines and resolutions. An invitation to assess United Nations policy and international law is always part of the call for papers for issues of the Review.

3. Institute of Cultural Affairs International (Special; 1985)

Introduction

Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) was founded in 1977. It is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to addressing poverty conflict, and injustice by facilitating the role of culture in human development. Our mission is to advocate for and actualize the fundamental right of all peoples to define and shape their own futures, in order to realize sustainable, just solutions to human challenges. This mission is achieved through a unique, participatory approach that places culture at the centre of the development process.

ICAI carries out research and field programmes and contributes to policy dialogues. ICAI programmes cover a wide spectrum of human development issues and challenges, as determined by the needs of local communities. Among the many issue areas addressed are HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, and care; forest conservation and protecting the rights of forest communities; and youth empowerment and participation. ICAI works collaboratively with United Nations agencies, Governments, academics and other non-governmental organizations. Its structure is that of a global association of national, autonomous member organizations that are presently located in 31 countries.

Relocation: In response to the ever-widening need to incorporate cultural perspectives in addressing development challenges around the world, ICAI recently reorganized and moved its operations. After operating from Brussels since its establishment in 1977, the organization relocated to Montreal in March 2007. This move was intended to strategically position the organization for an enhanced role and impact in international development.

Objects: While the purpose of the organization remains the same, following its relocation the General Assembly more clearly articulated the work of the organization. The objective of the organization is to provide relief from poverty and suffering in economically challenged communities throughout the world by (a) educating and instructing the public on the prevention of, and curative measures for, health problems; (b) providing or facilitating quality early childhood, elementary, and high school education and vocational training programmes for needy children

and youth; (c) improving the quality of drinking water by constructing wells and water treatment, irrigation and sewage treatment systems; (d) improving local infrastructures, including telephone and other basic communication technology, roads and transportation systems, and fuel sources; (e) establishing, operating and providing microfinance programmes and services to financially disadvantaged persons and communities in order to economically enhance communities and develop entrepreneurs as a means to eradicate poverty and hunger; (f) improving skills in forestry, agriculture and horticulture and assisting in the preservation of the environment in economically challenged communities; (g) developing, organizing and conducting programmes, seminars, conferences, resource materials and study materials for interested members of the public, member institutes of cultural affairs, other non-profit organizations, United Nations agencies and governments of all levels, both within Canada and abroad that are interested in pursuing an understanding of the need for poverty relief work; (h) promoting, supporting, facilitating and coordinating dialogue concerning poverty relief work; (i) carrying out research and holding educational conferences, seminars and workshops related to poverty relief work and distributing the results of such research; and (j) establishing, implementing and monitoring international policies, standards and practices regarding poverty relief work. These modified objects clarified the purpose of the organization but did not signify any major change in its vision or scope of work.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in United Nations meetings: (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: in 2005 our representative participated in the eleventh Conference of the Parties in Montreal. Prior to the Conference the organization participated in undertaking a global monitoring project with other organizations which was spearheaded by the Global Forest Coalition. During the Conference of the Parties, our representative took part in a side event that presented the outcome of the monitoring project. We sent a representative to the climate change talks held in Accra in August 2008. Our representative participated in the drafting of a policy paper developed by World Rainforest Movement meant for the meeting and was responsible for its distribution during the meeting. (b) United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Participated in the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held in Montreal in 2005. Our representative chaired a side event of a workshop to show efforts being made by some organizations to reclaim degraded lands. We participated in the third Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in March 2006 and the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. Prior to the meetings our representative served as a resource person in a workshop organized by the Global Forest Coalition to build the capacity of participating non-governmental organizations to enhance their contribution to the meeting. Our representative was engaged in lobbying government officials on sustaining the ban on the release of genetically modified organisms until it is proven that they pose no harm to the natural environment. Ad hoc open-ended working group on article 8j and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal in October 2007. (c) United Nations Forum on Forests: Participated in the fifth session, held at United Nations Headquarters in May 2005 and represented the non-governmental organization community in the multi-stakeholder dialogue debates. We also participated in the sixth session in February 2006 and the seventh session in April, 2007.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Supported the Millennium Development Goals campaign by printing posters and distributing them to our member organizations. We organized an orientation workshop for our members in Africa in 2005 to build their capacities on issues relating to the Goals. In November 2008 in Takayama, Japan, we organized our seventh Global Conference on Human Development with the theme "Unlocking the potential to create a new world together". With the active support of the United Nations Development Programme the conference considered various major human development challenges being faced worldwide.

4. International Council of Jewish Women (Special; 1969)

Introduction

The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) was founded in 1912. ICJW is a non-partisan, volunteer organization that has directed its efforts towards improving the status of women, social welfare activity and advocacy for human improvement. Within the larger objective of achieving universal peace and enhancing human rights, it seeks to spread knowledge about and promote support for the United Nations. Presently there are 52 Jewish women's organizations in 47 countries, on six continents, affiliated to ICJW, with a membership of over one and a half million women. ICJW holds quadrennial conventions, regional conferences (in Europe, Latin America, North America, and Asia-Pacific) and annual executive meetings. The ICJW headquarters is always situated in the country of the President, who may serve no more than one four-year term. It maintains delegations of permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It is accredited to the Council of Europe and has a permanent representative in Strasbourg, as well as with the European Women's Lobby. It is also accredited to UNICEF, with representation in New York and Geneva, and to UNESCO, with a delegation in Paris. In 1987, ICJW was cited with the Peace Messenger Award.

Aims of the organization: ICJW supports programmes and projects through the services of trained volunteers at both international and national levels and concentrates its efforts on issues relating to the status of women, social and community welfare, education, human rights, the elimination of racial discrimination and the environment. The organization functions as a central representative body, defining policy for its affiliates and directing affiliate activity towards cooperative effort with the United Nations agencies, national Governments and non-governmental organizations. It urges at all times the dissemination of information to motivate public opinion. Committed to the aims and purposes of the United Nations, the International Council of Jewish Women acts as a liaison between the United Nations and its affiliates, circulates reports on aspects of the United Nations operations that fall within the purview of its by-laws, supplying information and materials and requesting responses on local action taken. Annual directives embodying the guidelines for the observance of United Nations-designated years and decades are sent to all affiliates. Directives and calls for action are circulated for affiliates to urge their national Governments to implement United Nations conventions, declarations and resolutions, to supply information solicited by various branches of the Economic and Social Council, and to hold special meetings to commemorate

United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, International Women's Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and so on. Representatives of the organization have attended the World Assembly on Ageing, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking event in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2007, the four World Conferences of the Decade for Women, Beijing +5 and Beijing +10, as well as all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in the period of this report.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters: During the reporting period representatives of ICJW were active participants in the non-governmental community:

New York: attended all the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conferences, including the one held in Paris in September 2008. Phyllis Gottdiener, a member of the non-governmental Committee on Ageing and the Subcommittee on Violence Against Women, has also been a member of the Committee on the Status of Women, Subcommittee on Older Women, and of the Committee on Migration. Madeleine Brecher was a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on the Status of Women (2008), the planning committees of the Committee on the Status of Women and the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, the Committee on the Status of Women Handbook Committee in New York. Joan Goldberg was the co-chair of the Registration Committee and on the Planning Committee (New York) for the sixty-first Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference in Paris. Judith Mintz represented ICJW in the Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Violence against Children and Working Group on Girls. Before her, Roberta Ross was the chair of the Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Girls in 2005 and was the editor of its newsletter in 2006 and 2007. Roberta Ross chaired a round table for the Division for the Advancement of Women at the fifty-first Committee on the Status of Women.

As members of these non-governmental organizations committees, the representatives have assisted in the preparation of statements for submission to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and have made interventions before these bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on UNICEF, the UNICEF Working Group on Girls and the Committee on the Status of Women.

ICJW co-sponsored a number of parallel events at the United Nations during the reporting period, including those on (a) community outreach and health, at the sixty-first Annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference in September 2008, co-sponsored with Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; (b) corporate feminism, at the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Status of Women in February 2008, co-sponsored with Soroptomist International; (c) Muslim and Jewish women, at the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Status of Women, co-sponsored with the United States Federation for Middle East Peace; and (d) water security and climate change, at the sixtieth annual Conference in September 2007, co-sponsored with Hadassah.

Geneva: Participated in the work of the Human Rights Council, especially in regard to the rights of women and children; we were active in the non-governmental committees dealing with human rights, status of women, freedom of religion and

belief, refugees and children in armed conflict and displacement. We contributed to and signed statements on the above subjects in United Nations forums.

ICJW was a member of the non-governmental organizations Special Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, and our representative, Léonie de Picciotto, was re-elected to its bureau as secretary in February 2004 for a second three-year term. ICJW contributed to and co-sponsored several statements. ICJW participated in the annual sessions of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Vienna: The ICJW representative has been posted in Vienna since the establishment of the United Nations Office in 1979 and has served on the Board of most of the non-governmental organizations committees in different functions and co-sponsored several statements during the review period.

The ICJW representatives to UNESCO and UNICEF in Paris have co-sponsored several statements, and permanently disseminate their programmes and objectives. The head of the ICJW delegation to UNESCO has been vice-chair and group president of several non-governmental organizations Committees. For the "water group" the ICJW delegation edited leaflets relating case histories of non-governmental organizations and debates on the implementation of the results of World Water Forums. They submitted a joint non-governmental statement of support to the UNESCO General Conference concerning "Holocaust Remembrance" (2007). The reactivated human rights commission was vice-chaired by the ICJW representative, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Represented the Human Rights Commission on a round table focused on the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The ICJW representative has been asked to chair a group to present a short declaration on the Durban Review Conference.

Iana Zbar, another ICJW representative to UNESCO, is vice-chairperson of the Intercultural Dialogue for Peace Committee, rapporteur of the Committee on the Eradication of Poverty and a member of the non-governmental working groups on women and micro-credit and education for peace. Gabrielle Voignac at UNESCO concentrated on science and ethics and biomedical issues and attended the International Bioethics Committee (2006). Danielle Obadia, a member of the UNESCO Commission on Dialogue between Cultures for Peace, organized a session on human rights and the Internet at the sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, held in Paris in September 2008.

ICJW publishes a semi-annual newsletter in English and Spanish and sends annual directives and guidelines to affiliates proposing specific action in support of United Nations events. A special edition of the newsletter in September 2008 was devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At each of the organization's conventions, one session was devoted to the United Nations and its activities. Matters receiving special attention at each session were women's issues and the need for women's participation at all levels of society; peace and the human rights of all humankind; elimination of all forms of racial discrimination; concern for the ageing, disabled and mentally retarded; care for children and youth; and the environment.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: ICJW representatives have initiated programmes on maternal health, with emphasis on genetic diseases, offered testing to the community at large, and encouraged local community initiatives on various aspects of environmental concern. Affiliated organizations were encouraged to develop projects to carry out the overall goals of the United Nations, thus serving as a catalyst for national and local efforts and a conduit of these aims on all levels of society.

5. International Shinto Foundation (Special; 2001)

Introduction: As an indigenous faith tradition, Shinto contains values and elements common to the majority of the world's ethnographical cultures, and thus has much to contribute in the sharing of inter-cultural dialogue and exchange. The International Shinto Foundation (ISF) assists scholarly research in aspects of culture and religion at academic institutions internationally and cooperates with them in sponsoring projects and events. ISF has been cooperating harmoniously with other non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in promoting human welfare and environmental sustainability. ISF is a not-for-profit corporation accredited in Japan and the United States of America. ISF is headquartered in Tokyo with the New York centre functioning as an international centre and maintains liaison offices in London, Moscow, Hangzhou, China and Washington, D.C. Its membership currently stands at 795 individual members and 15 institutional members distributed over nine countries: the United States, China, Japan, France, Norway, Russia, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Membership is open to any sympathetic organization or individual who wishes to participate in the philosophy, purpose and goals of ISF. Current members generally are associated with other cultural organizations, and tend to be scholars and researchers in the field of cultural studies. ISF maintains cooperative relationships with institutions of Japanese cultural studies associated with various universities. The financial status of ISF is based on membership fees and corporate and individual contributions. Although the worldwide economic stagnation in the last few years has affected its financial status, ISF has not received any contribution of any kind from a Government or an intergovernmental source directly or indirectly.

Contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Since its accreditation as a non-governmental organization associated with the Department of Public Information, ISF has been sending its representatives to the annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Conference and contributing to the work of the executive committee every year. ISF has maintained a good relationship with the United Nations information centres in Tokyo and Moscow. Currently ISF endeavours to make the Millennium Development Goals known as widely as possible among Japanese people by publicizing related articles and reports in its journals and website (www.shinto.org).

Activities in support of global principles: ISF developed its activities on culture, education, environment, food, human rights, indigenous peoples, international peace and security, religion, social development, sustainable development and water. As in previous years, ISF has endeavoured to promote the significance and importance of the various International Years proclaimed by the United Nations by organizing

symposia and workshops. In 2005, the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, ISF organized events in Tokyo, New York, and Moscow. On 7 July 2005, 300 people gathered in the Japan Youth Hall in Tokyo for an international symposium entitled "Spiritual and practical values of martial arts as a means of physical education" which was organized by ISF and supported by the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo, the embassies of Israel, Tunisia, Mongolia and Poland and the Shumpukan Martial Arts Society.

In New York, on 9 September 2005, over 100 people attended a workshop on the same theme held as an off-site event of the fifty-eighth Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, organized by ISF and supported by the Japan Society.

On 20 December 2005, another symposium on the same topic was held in Moscow with 100 people, organized by ISF and the Russian Martial Arts Sport Corporation under the auspices of the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow.

In 2006, ISF was selected as a sponsor of mid-day interactive workshops for the fifty-ninth annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference. In conjunction with the 2006 International Year of Desert and Desertification, ISF co-sponsored a workshop showing how sacred forests and groves of Shinto shrines have been protected and developed as important assets of human life in Japan and the rest of the world. ISF sponsored a special Gagaku concert in New York City on 28 November 2006 under the joint auspices of the Permanent Mission of Japan and the Japan Society commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Japan's membership in the United Nations. ISF has been a member of the non-governmental committee for the Decade of Indigenous People since 1998. ISF Director-General Yoshimi Umeda has also submitted statements each year on behalf of Shinto in the panel sessions and supported the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. ISF has been a member of the committee of religious non-governmental organizations and the conference of non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and has been supporting and participating in the annual interfaith service of commitment to the work of the United Nations at the opening of the annual session of the General Assembly in September every year.

Since 2000 ISF has been organizing the International Children's Day celebration in New York as a Shinto cultural presentation in accordance with the traditional Japanese custom of blessing for children's growth and future happiness. A portion of contributions received from participants in this event is donated to UNICEF.

ISF opened a liaison office in Washington, D.C., in 2008 with a couple of voluntary representatives who have begun making contact with civil society in the metropolitan area.

6. UNANIMA International (Special; 2005)

Introduction: UNANIMA International (UNANIMA) was created in 2002 as a non-governmental coalition of communities of religious women throughout the world who work in solidarity with others to bring economic and social advancement particularly to women and children living in poverty, immigrants and refugees. The

17 communities that are its members work as educators, social workers, health-care workers, development workers and community organizers in more than 67 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and Australia and the Pacific. In the past four years UNANIMA has chosen to work against human trafficking as its major focus. This focus has been broadly interpreted to include the causes and consequences of human trafficking which overlap with many of the Millennium Development Goals, e.g. poverty, migration, violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: UNANIMA participated in the forty-ninth to fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at United Nations Headquarters, bringing delegates from Nigeria, Lesotho, Peru, Australia, Canada and the United States. UNANIMA submitted statements to the fiftieth to fifty-second sessions on such topics as the impacts of human trafficking and prostitution on women; the needs of vulnerable groups of women regarding trade policies, access to public goods and property rights; domestic violence; and the sexual abuse and exploitation of the girl child. The coordinator was a member of the non-governmental committee on the status of women, which organized a round table in preparation for the fifty-second session on financing for gender equality on 28 January 2008. The organization brought civil society experts to the General Assembly civil society hearings to review the Millennium Declaration (June 2005) and attended the high-level summit on United Nations reform and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (September 2005). UNANIMA sponsored an interactive discussion during the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development on poverty eradication at the community level, with speakers from the Philippines, India and Pakistan, and participated in the forty-fourth to forty-sixth sessions, submitting statements on relevant topics. UNANIMA presented alternative non-governmental organizations reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women relative to the periodic reports of Australia (thirty-fourth session), Mexico (thirty-sixth session), Nicaragua (thirty-seventh session), Pakistan (thirty-eighth session), Nigeria (forty-first session) and the United Kingdom (forty-first session) and submitted a joint statement with Australian, Cambodian and Thai non-governmental organizations to the 34th session regarding the need to address the trade and migration issues that escalate human trafficking. UNANIMA brought delegations from Africa, the United States, France and the United Kingdom to the thirteenth and sixteenth sessions Commission for Sustainable Development and also participated in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies: UNANIMA has principally worked with United Nations bodies at Headquarters. UNANIMA was a co-founder of the non-governmental committee on HIV/AIDS in 2005; helped plan the civil society forum for the Commission for Social Development; moderated a round table in February 2006 in preparation for the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; was a member of the steering group of the working group on girls of the non-governmental committee on UNICEF; and organized a panel discussion on incorporating demand into the fight against human trafficking in July 2008.

Contribution to special events: UNANIMA chaired a panel on World AIDS Day 2006 on "The Impact of HIV and AIDS on children and families"; co-sponsored cultural events held in recognition of the sixth and seventh sessions of the

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; was a member of the non-governmental committee on the United Nations Decade of the World's Indigenous People; as chair of the committee on HIV/AIDS, worked with focal points of the United Nations high-level dialogue on HIV/AIDS in June 2008. **Bringing speakers to events**: Provided a keynote speaker from the Philippines to share her experience of living in extreme poverty at the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development; (ii) brought a representative from Swaziland for the civil society forum prior to the special session on HIV/AIDS in 2006. **Participation in special sessions**: Attended the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development; participated in the high-level dialogue on international migration of the General Assembly, September 2006 and UNANIMA published an advocacy flyer for this session; attended the General Assembly high-level dialogue on financing for development in 2007, the six General Assembly review sessions of the Monterrey Consensus in 2008 and hearings of civil society on financing for development at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in June 2008.

Participation in United Nations bodies and initiatives in other locations: Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, February 2008; UNHCR annual consultations with non-governmental organizations, September 2007 in Geneva; meeting in Rome in October 2007 to build an international network to address the fight against trafficking in persons.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Sponsored a speaker to address the abuse of human rights of Restavek children in Haiti at the Commission on the Status of Women 2007; facilitated a side event with speakers from Philippines, India and Pakistan to address poverty eradication efforts during the 44th session of the Commission for Social Development; provided a key speaker for the annual International Day Against Poverty at United Nations Headquarters, 17 October 2006.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: Advocated for a rights-based approach to human trafficking at side events during the 34th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; promoted the conventions on the rights of migrants, elimination of discrimination against women and rights in a paper distributed across North America by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, November 2006; organized a side event during the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women on violence against girls in Haiti, Ghana and Togo; brought a Canadian aboriginal youth speaker to address "A World Fit for Children + 5" December 2007; co-sponsored a side event at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the economics of the sex industry, February 2008; developed a campaign to stop the demand for trafficking in women and children in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish which has been distributed in more than 60 countries.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: Co-sponsored an interactive workshop on good practices in approaches to HIV/AIDS to mark the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples in September 2005; sponsored a parallel event on 26 February 2006 at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on partnering communities to prevent violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS, with a speaker from Kenya.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: Sponsored a speaker from Lesotho a side event during the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005; collaborated in the development of a Web-based advocacy programme on water as a human right and public good in support of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015.